

December 16, 2005 Press office: +389 (0)2 308-0446 Cell phone: +389 (0)70 323-807 Email: talbor@usaid.gov

www.usaid.org.mk

## PRESS RELEASE

## Largest Roma primary school in Macedonia repaired by parents and teachers with U.S. support

The Parent School Partnership (PSP) Group of the largest Roma primary school in Macedonia, the Braka Ramiz - Hamid School in the Skopje municipality of Suto Orizari has received a donation of textbooks and support for repairs to classroom doors, windows, and floors from the American people, through the United States Agency for International Development, a part of the U.S. Mission in Macedonia. This activity will directly benefit up to 2,200 students and 100 teachers.

"Although the American people, through USAID, provided the resources, these school improvements would not have been possible without the active participation of the school community," said Dick Goldman, USAID's Mission Director.

Goldman attended a special concert at the school on Friday, marking the completion of the renovations.

USAID's support included helping establish the PSP Group, which is made up of 20 members representing parents, teachers, and school administrators. The group has participated in intensive workshops on topics ranging from decision-making to resource mobilization. The program has also supported extracurricular activities identified and prioritized by teachers.

This program is part of USAID's ongoing support of the Roma people. Through this and other programs, USAID/Macedonia has committed more than \$3 million to support Roma activities as part of the Roma Decade initiative.

## NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$400 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 30 projects worth \$35 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multiethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit www.USAID.org.mk.

The program was implemented as part of the Participant Training Program through the Macedonian Civic Education Center (MCEC) and the Center for Institutional Development (CIRa).